



Braille Yadeshwari



As a child one of Yadeshwari's eyes was damaged due to a freak accident caused by kerosene lamps at their home. Doctor had cautioned that the damaged eye may become dysfunctional after some time. But somehow her sight continues to be good even today. However this experience taught her about the challenges blind people face. Yadeshwari decided to do something for blind people since God had given her a chance to see the world.

When Yadeshwari's uncle, a retired Hindi Pandit, underwent surgery for saving his only functional eye, she was filled with empathy for blind people. With the aim of doing something for the blind she joined a diploma for the blind in Hyderabad. In 2001, on a visit to Sri *Datta Peetham*, Yadeshwari was highly moved by a dance recital performed by blind girls. On sharing her thoughts with Swamiji, he encouraged her to put the diploma to good use and write spiritual books in Braille for the blind.

Yadeshwari's first book "Sri Guru Geeta" was released on 22 February 2002. Since then she is responsible for almost 500 Braille books. In the next few years all spiritual books available in *Datta Peetham* were rewritten by her in Braille. Besides, converting into Braille Mahabharatam, Ramayanam, Bhagvat Geeta, the Bible, Kuran, Yadeshwari has



written stories related to mythology, history, biographies of saints and philosophers. Yadeshwari has also translated books from other languages such as Hindi, Gujarati, Russian and German etc. She admits that German was the most difficult to translate, but she learnt through the internet how to improve her language skills.

When she first started, Yadeshwari wrote mostly manually as Braille printers were not available then. The size of the book increases up to six times if written manually compared to the printed books. *Datta Peetham* later spent Rs 4 lakh to buy a Braille printer. Mr Jagan, an NRI also contributed to the cause by sending 30000 Braille stationery.

The Principal of the school at Kothakota village where Yadeshwari works is blind. She had problems to teach the students everyday as the text books were not available in Braille. Other teachers helped her out in teaching. Seeing her plight, Yadeshwari started converting all text books from 1st grade to Intermediate into Braille which ran into thousands of pages. These books are now being used by the Government of Telangana state. Many of these books are now being used in Vishakhapatnam, Hindupur and other places in the state of Andhra Pradesh too.

Yadeshwari is determined to continue with this work till the dusk of her life. She wishes that one day she is able to translate *Vedas* in to Braille besides all *Upanishads*, *Puranas* and *Itihasa*.



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